

As required under the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments, the USEPA last year announced tougher new air standards for municipal solid waste incinerators. These regulations are designed to cut harmful emissions from incinerators by requiring the installation of more pollution control equipment. While I am encouraged by these new requirements, I remain opposed to the construction of any new solid waste incinerators. The costs of complying with new standards, along with the health risks of the incineration process, are simply not worth it.

At this time, I wish to insert into the RECORD comments made by one of my constituents, Michael Turlek of the Lyons Incineration Opponent Network (LION) in Illinois. These comments were submitted in response to the USEPA's proposed rules on incinerator emissions and the reassessment of dioxin.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and commend Mr. Turlek for his commitment to the environment. Mr. Turlek has been a leading force in fighting solid waste incinerator projects proposed for my congressional district. I thank Mr. Turlek for his tireless efforts on behalf of public health.

LYONS INCINERATOR OPPONENT NETWORK  
(LION)

(by Michael W. Turlek)

The disclosures of the Federal EPA Health Assessment Document for dioxin (TCDD) and Related Compounds call for re-assessment of corrective measures for primary sources of major dioxin emissions.

We are dealing with extremely poisonous, stable compounds with environmental persistence measured in decades. Compounds that can be passed from the expectant mother's system to the growing fetus, then, postnatally, through the mother's milk to the infant who is then subject to a lifetime of additional exposure and health hazards. Following absorption, a half-life for 2-3-7-8-TCDF elimination was estimated from 5.8 years to 11.3 years.

The current report reveals the average human intake exposure rate to be more than 500-fold HIGHER than the 1985 EPA report data. Upper-bound risk estimates for general population dioxin exposure could be as high as one in 10,000 to 1 in 1,000. This is frightening data and the FEPA must look closely towards recommendations for the cure rather than the band-aid.

We, as responsible adults cannot accept the associated health risks for the current or future generations.

REPRODUCTIVE AND DEVELOPMENTAL EFFECTS

Hormonal changes, reproductive dysfunction, under-developed organs and impaired organ function. Developmental toxicity found in fish, birds and mammals is likely to occur in humans.

IMMUNE TOXICITY

Alterations in specific immune defector functions and increased susceptibility to infectious disease.

CANCER

TCDD has been clearly shown to increase malignant tumor incidence in laboratory animals.

The peer panel that met in September of 1993 found that results from human studies were largely consistent with observations from laboratory studies of dioxin-induced cancer and therefore should not be dismissed or ignored.

Major, qualitative, environmental release sources have been identified as: Medical Waste Incinerators, Municipal Waste Incin-

erators, Cement Kilns, and Industrial wood burning.

Dioxin, being a by-product of incineration merely transfers the dioxin to land-fills via the bottom-ash if emission standards are reduced to keep dioxins out of the atmosphere. The problem continues.

It behooves the EPA to recommend a ban on medical municipal, wood-burning and other dioxin producing incinerators. Tightening standards is not enough.

Chemical manufacturing process recommendations should call for a phasing out of chlorinated compounds with immediate use of alternate non-dioxin compounds, where available.

Perhaps it's time that we should be talking about BEST KNOWN technologies rather than BEST AVAILABLE. Laser burn technology might prove substantially more efficient.

Part of the study states that you cannot point to the number of the populace affected negatively nor can you point to the individuals; but the facts and data are there.

You never will be able to point to these people. They will continue as needless, obscure casualties, unless you do something about it.

ADDENDUM

The persistent and hazardous nature of dioxin causes us to question the control effectiveness of Waste Incineration Dioxin Standards.

Michael Cooper, Mgr, Environmental Compliance, Foster/Wheeler waste incinerator builder/operator, while describing "carbon injection" as a dioxin emission control system stated the following:

Trapped dioxin particles are released when introduced to fire of lower temperature than the original combustion.

In answer to a question from the Chair, he stated that the dioxin particles do not end up in the fly-ash.

Our comment: Most incinerator operations have identified dioxin in both fly-ash and bottom ash.

In answer to another question from the Chair, Cooper stated that the temperature was not high enough to destroy the dioxin.

Our comment: Carbon injection is not a proven technology for removal and destruction of dioxin.

OTHER QUESTIONS ARISE

1. Can we be comfortable with injecting dioxin particles for destruction while other dioxin particulates are being formed? Are we really reducing atmospheric dioxin emission or creating a steadier flow?

2. Do we want dioxin-contaminated fly ash or dioxin-contaminated bottom ash that does not test hazardous to be landfilled with non-hazardous waste?

3. Do we want dioxin-contaminated fly ash or bottom ash used for building products as some burner builder/operator would?

4. Because of the high toxic and persistent nature of dioxin, we should require hazardous waste treatment for ash and filters that show dioxin content.

The preponderance of evidence shows dioxin to be a very dangerous, hazardous compound. How much longer are we going to expose the population to needless hazards, be it dioxin, mercury or any other compound?

Haven't we learned yet?

THE LESSONS OF AUSCHWITZ

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate today to remember the horrible discoveries that were made by Allied forces at Auschwitz 50 years ago.

Words are insufficient to describe one of the blackest and most despicable crimes against humanity ever perpetrated. The actions of Nazi Germany aimed at the utter extermination of European Jews tore apart the collective souls of our parents' and grandparents' generations, tragically reminding them, lest they had forgotten, the depths to which the human character can sink. As the truths about the holocaust emerged, we were forced as a nation to reassess not just the direction of the global community or our country, but to look inside ourselves and face many very difficult questions about the moral direction of our communities, our families, and ourselves. No citizen of good conscience could escape that important self-examination.

Fifty years later, the lessons from Auschwitz are the same. The suffering and anguish is still very real, and continues to act as a constant reminder of our obligations to the pursuit of decency and compassion, both at home and abroad.

But on this occasion I believe a sense of guarded optimism and quiet resolution are in order alongside of the tremendous sense of loss we still feel. For the United States is the leader of the free world. It was the United States that picked up the sword of democracy to defeat the evil hand of the Axis Powers and restore security and prosperity to the world. And since then it has been the United States who has stood firm to make sure that such persecution would never occur again.

As we approach the 21st century, we must constantly bear in mind what America has become: a model of freedom and justice to the world. We strive for peace so that we never have to discuss another Auschwitz again. On this 50th anniversary of the horrible revelations at Auschwitz, let us all pause to reflect on several things. First and foremost, we remember the victims of the Holocaust with great sadness, and the survivors with consolation. We also need to remember how terrible the nature of man can be. But we in America should not lose sight of how far we have come. Most of all, we can never forget how diligent we must remain in the struggle to secure the safety of our posterity, and that of the posterity of our neighbors around the world.

TRIBUTE TO BUD GATES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, January 30, 1995

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize an outstanding Coloradan, Mr. Bud Gates, on the occasion of his being awarded the Colorado Counties Inc. 1994 Distinguished Service Award.